

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 9, 12-13, 17-19, and 65 have been resubmitted. Claims 1, 17-19 are amended. Claims 10 and 11 are canceled with this amendment. Claims 2-8, 14-16, 20-64, and 66 were previously canceled. No new claims are added.

Claims 1, 10-13, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Say et al. (US 6063343) in view of Nishikawa (JP2000237538 A). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Say et al. (US 6063343) in view of Nishikawa (JP2000237538 A) and further in view of Ogata et al (US 6531100 B1). Claim 65 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Say et al. (US 6063343).

### **Examiner Interview**

An examiner interview was conducted by telephone on 11/6/08 and participating were Examiner Conley, David Bremer, and Lyman Smith. Amended claim 1 was previously provided to the examiner and was discussed during the interview. The examiner expressed the opinion that the amended claim successfully traversed the cited prior. The examiner stated that he would review the prior art and perform a new search encompassing the additional elements present in the amended claim. The examiner suggested care be exercised to make sure the additional elements do not give rise to new embodiments that are not disclosed in the specification.

### **Claim Amendments**

Claim 1 is amended to include at least three air cleaner units and a mix manifold in communication with the at least three air cleaner units. Two of the at least three air cleaner units are spaced from and located upstream from the mix manifold. One of the at least three air cleaner units is spaced from and located downstream from the mix manifold. Air from the air cleaner units located upstream from the mix manifold is mixed with air from the mix manifold and passed through the air cleaner located downstream from the mix manifold. Support for these elements of the amended claim may be found in the originally filed specification at, for example, paragraphs [0048-0050], [0055], and Figures 3 and 4.

Claim 1 is amended to further include a first absorbent material having a surface area within  $1001 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  to  $1499 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and having pore diameters within  $6 \text{ \AA}$  to  $600 \text{ \AA}$ ; and a second absorbent material having a surface area within  $1501 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  to  $2500 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and having pore diameters within  $5 \text{ \AA}$  to  $10 \text{ \AA}$ . Support for these elements of the amended claim may be found in the originally filed specification at, for example, paragraph [0075] and Figure 6B.

No new matter is added.

Say et al. (US 6063343)

Say et al. discloses an apparatus for photocatalytic fluid purification that includes at least one air cleaner unit in communication with an interior air space. The air cleaner unit can remove a pollutant from an air stream and can provide cleansed air to the interior air space. The Say air cleaner unit can comprise a photocatalytic oxidation unit and can comprise a first absorbent material and a second absorbent material.

Say does not teach nor suggest a system as described in amended claim 1, with at least three air cleaner units and a mix manifold, where two air cleaner units are upstream from the mix manifold and one unit is downstream from the manifold, and where air from the upstream air cleaner units is mixed in the mix manifold and the passed through the downstream air cleaner unit.

Say does not teach nor suggest a first absorbent material having a surface area within  $1001 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  to  $1499 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and having pore diameters within  $6 \text{ \AA}$  to  $600 \text{ \AA}$ , and a second absorbent material having a surface area within  $1501 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  to  $2500 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and having pore diameters within  $5 \text{ \AA}$  to  $10 \text{ \AA}$ , as are now included in amended claim 1.

Claims 9, 12-13, 17-19, and 65 all depend from amended claim 1 and include all the inventive elements of claim 1. For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 65 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Say.

Nishikawa (US 2000237538 A)

Nishikawa discloses a photocatalytic air purifier including absorbent materials such as zeolite, porous silica and activated carbon. However, Nishikawa does not teach nor suggest a photocatalytic air purifier with a first absorbent material having a surface area within  $1001 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  to  $1499 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and having pore diameters within  $6 \text{ \AA}$  to  $600 \text{ \AA}$ , and a second absorbent material having a surface area within  $1501 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  to  $2500 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and having pore diameters within  $5 \text{ \AA}$  to  $10 \text{ \AA}$ , as are now included in amended claim 1.

In light of the inventive elements in the amended claim 1 and the depending claims, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and

withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 10-13, and 17-19 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Say in view of Nishikawa.

Ogata (US 6531100 B1)

Ogata discloses a photocatalytic apparatus an aluminum substrate as the support material for a photocatalyst. However, Ogata does not teach nor suggest a photocatalytic air purifier with a first absorbent material having a surface area within 1001 m<sup>2</sup>/g to 1499 m<sup>2</sup>/g and having pore diameters within 6 Å to 600 Å, and a second absorbent material having a surface area within 1501 m<sup>2</sup>/g to 2500 m<sup>2</sup>/g and having pore diameters within 5 Å to 10 Å, as are now included in amended claim 1.

In light of the inventive elements in the amended claim 1 and the depending claims, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Say in view of Nishikawa and in further view of Ogata.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action with respect to claims 1, 9, 12-13, 17-19, and 65 is requested. Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

In the event the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the attorney at the telephone number identified below.

Appl. No. 10/660,354  
Amdt. dated November 21, 2008  
Reply to Office action of October 20, 2008

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0851.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 21, 2008

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